

THE
TRADE
WITH

France, Italy, Spain and Portugal,
CONSIDERED:

With some
OBSERVATIONS
ON THE
Treaty of Commerce
BETWEEN
Great Britain and France.

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The Trade with France, Italy, Spain, and Portugal, Consider'd.

THat the Nations, that favour us most, ought to be most favour'd by us, is a Maxim in Politicks not to be deny'd.

Which of the Nations above-mentioned favours us most, is now to be Consider'd.

I. The *Spanish* Trade furnishes us,

1st. With Wool, to Employ our Industrious Poor.

2^{ly}. With Oil, to work up that Wool.

3^{ly}. It takes from us great Quantities of Woollen Manufactures.

4^{ly}. It consumes great Quantities of *Pilchards, Herrings* and *Salmon* from *Great Britain* and *Ireland*.

5^{ly}. It Vends abundance of *Beef, Butter, Tallow, Hides, &c.* from *Ireland*.

6^{ly}. But above all, it takes off great Quantities of our *Fish* from *Newfoundland*, which may be esteem'd our Mines of *Gold* and *Silver*: That Trade being of so much more Advantage to us, as the hands that are Employ'd therein, are not only useful to us, as they get that Wealth out of the Sea by their Labour; but as they are thereby render'd capable of serving on board the Navy Royal, which is both our *Glory* and our *Safety*.

II. The *Portugal*, and

III. The *Italian* Trade,

Take off our *Herrings, Pilchards, Salmon, Woollen Manufactures, Leather*, and all the Products of *Ireland* in great abundance; and have all other Advantages in common with the *Spanish* (the furnishing us with *Wool* only excepted.)

The

The *Portugal* Trade furnishes us with some dying Commodities; and the *Italian* Trade with *Raw Silk*, to Employ our Poor industrious VVeavers of *London, Norwich, Canterbury, &c.*

All these Trades have as constantly increas'd every Year, as we have increas'd the Demand for their Wines; by which means the Navigation and Seamen of this Kingdom have been greatly encourag'd, especially to the *Mediterranian*; where, by Act of Parliament, such Ships as carry out our Manufactures are to have 16 Guns and 32 Men, of which there is now a much greater Number than there were 16 or 20 Years ago. But small Ships, with an easy Charge of Men, can fetch Wines from *France*; which will discourage the bringing in other Wines, and have thus further bad effect, that the greatest part of those Ships must lie and rot, or come home dead freighted: The Charge whereof will fall on those *British* Commodities they carry out, which rendring them dear, will lessen their Exportation; as will also the Incapacity the *Spaniards, Portugese, and Italians* will be in to Pay for them. For no Nation (no not the *Spanish* itself with all their Mines) can take off the Commodities of another Nation, unless they likewise take the greatest part of theirs.

From every one of these Nations, to whom we constantly export more than we import from them, we bring the Ballance in Money.

IV. The *French* Trade,

1st. Instead of furnishing us with *Wool*, deprives us of a great deal from *Kent, Sussex, and Ireland.*

2^{ly}, It supplies us with no Commodities for the Improvement of our *Woollen, Silken, or other* Manufactures, as those other Nations do.

3^{ly}, On the contrary, it takes from us whatever dying Commodities we are so unwise as to furnish them with; which they are willing to receive from us, the better to carry on their own *Woollen* Manufacture, in order to beat us out of the *Turkey* Trade from *Marseilles*; as they will also out of the *Spanish* Trade, by their much nearer Ports.

4^{ly}, We cannot send any of our *Barrel-Fish*, if we must pay Duties, 47 l. 10 s. *Towns.* or 3 l. 11 s. 3 d. *sterl.* per Last of 12 Barrels; and then we shall want Markets for our *Herrings, Pilchards, Cod* and

Salmon

Salmon: For, as was said before, the *Spaniards*, *Portuguese*, and *Italians*, cannot pay for them unless we take their Wines.

5ly, They will take off none of our *Refin'd Sugars*, unless we pay them 22 l: 10 *Tourns.* or 33 s. 9 d. *sterl.* per 100 . wherein the great Care the *French* take of their Manufactures and Plantations may be seen.

6ly, The Trade of *Tobacco* is farm'd in *France*, by which means there being but one Buyer, if they should be induc'd to take off any of that Commodity (which being so bulky, is of the utmost consequence to the Shipping and Navigation of this Kingdom) it will be at such low Prices, as will extremely depress the Colonies of *Virginia* and *Maryland*; which will force those Colonies to make among themselves the Necessaries they used to be furnish'd with from hence, and very much lessen the Customs.

7ly. The *French* will take no *Newfoundland Fish*, nor will they have any need of it; for if they Transplant the Inhabitants of that part of *Newfoundland* which they are to yield up to us, to the Island of *Cape-Breton*, they had as good have kept where they were before: especially if they are to have the Liberty of setting up *Stages*, to cure and dry their Fish on the main Island of *Newfoundland*. Nay, we shall be extreme Losers by what they yield us, if the Charge of Garisons is to be laid on the Fish; for that Charge will inevitably ruin the Trade.

And if the *French* have *Cape-Breton*, and also the liberty of drying their Fish on our Island of *Newfoundland*, where they liv'd before; they will,

1. Furnish their own Country with Fish, which we us'd to do, before our former Princes suffer'd them to have the Liberty of Curing and drying their Fish in *Newfoundland*.

2. They will by their Situation have their Fish ready much sooner than ours, and thereby be able not only to supply themselves, but will also in time of Peace forestal the very Markets of *Portugal*, *Spain* and *Italy*, where ours use to be vended.

3. They will hereby keep up and increase their Nursery of Seamen: for 'tis chiefly, if not wholly, to this Trade, that the great-
ness

ness of *France* by Sea is owing : their Maritime Power having begun to be considerable from their first Trading at *Newfoundland*, and has kept pace with their Increase of Trade ever since ; as appears by the insignificant Figure they made at Sea in the time of Queen *Elizabeth*, and even so lately as the Siege of *Rochel*, compar'd with the mighty Fleets they have since put to Sea, and with which they have thrice Fought the united Fleets of *Great Britain* and *Holland*; where, tho they were twice beaten, yet once they got the better ; And had we been either times alone, they must in all Probability have destroy'd us; so much stronger are they by Sea, than either we or the *Dutch* alone.

8^y, They will furnish us with abundance of Linen and Paper, to the great detriment of those Manufactures in *Great Britain* and *Ireland*.

9^{ly}, They will also supply us with Brandys, to the great detriment of those Countries that abound in Barley, who have born so much of the Burden of the War by the Duty on Malt ; the Duties on which Spirits bring into the Revenue prodigious Sums, in comparison to what the Commodity is worth when in Barley. Their Brandy will have an influence on our *West-India Trade*, by hindring the making Brandy of Molosses, which are drawn from our coarse Sugars.

10^{ly}, But to over-balance all these Inconveniences, they think it is enough that they furnish us with those delicious Wines, which our Nation is famous for being so unmeasurably fond of, and which we must pay them for in *Mony*. For if they take no Woollen Goods, no Fish, no refin'd Sugars nor Tobacco, we shall have nothing but *Mony* to exchange for their Wines and Brandies (of which in a free Trade we shall take several thousand Tuns *per annum*) because our dying Commodities, our Lead, Tin, and other Goods from *Great Britain*, and our Provisions from *Ireland*, will never be able to answer for their Linens, Silks, Paper, and other Goods; the very Article of Black Silks only, amounting to a prodigious Sum. For allowing out of the seven Millions of People, which Sir *William Petty* computes by the Duty on Hearth-Mony to be in *England*, that three Millions of them are Women, and that one in six of them spends 20 s. yearly in Hoods and Scarves (which surely is a very modest Computation both for Number and Expence) that alone will amount to 500000 l. without mentioning what is spent of that sort in *Ireland*, and all our Plantations, which must amount to a great deal; and this without including colour'd wrought Silks, or those brocaded with Gold, Silver, and Silk ; the Value whereof must be

be an immense Sum of Money, considering the Fondness our People have for any thing that is *French*.

This is but a short View of the Advantages arising by our Trade to *Spain*, *Portugal*, and *Italy*; and of the Disadvantages of our Trade with *France*; if it shall appear that they have refus'd to admit four of our chiefest Commodities, and that we have not the Equivalent of refusing four of theirs, which might, in some measure, have help'd to mitigate our Loss by the *French* Trade, viz.

Their Wines,
Their Brandies,
Their Silks,
Their Linen of all sorts,

For our Fish.
For our Refined Sugars.
For our Tobacco.
For our Woollen Manufactures of all
sorts.

But the Disadvantages will yet be infinitely greater, if the Wines and other *French* Commodities are to pay no more Duties than what are payable upon the like Commodities from other Nations.

For the Wines and useful Commodities which we receive from other Nations, come to us in exchange for our own Manufactures and Products; but it cannot be so from *France*, when they will not receive them; and therefore their Wines and other Goods ought to pay more Duties than others.

The Linens we receive from *Holland*, *Germany* and *Flanders*, are in exchange for our Plantation Goods, Sugars, Tobacco, &c. and also for vast quantities of the Woollen Manufacture from all the parts of this Kingdom, especially from the *West* and the *North*.

'Tis a great mistake to say, (as 'tis reported it is said) that the same Commodities pay, or ought to pay equally, the same Duties from all Countries, and that therefore the *French* insist upon it's being so now. They that say so, must say it out of Ignorance, or some other Reason.

1st, They ought not to pay alike, because in Reason, Prudence and Justice, the Product of that Nation that takes off most of our Commodities, ought to pay less than that of others; which makes it just that all *French* Goods should pay more than the like sorts from other places.

2^{dly}, It has generally been otherwise in Fact, for which we appeal to almost every Page of the Book of Rates; *Portugal* Wines, and *Spanish* Wines, have time out of mind paid different Duties, as well as *French* Wines. And the Linens and Silks from several Countries have also paid different Duties, according as they are in goodness; and as those Countries from whence they come, have deserved better or worse of us in point of Trade. 'Tis
sup-

supposed *France* will have the *Modesty* not to pretend that they deserve any favour of us in point of Trade; or else must acknowledge, which they will hardly do, that their Wines and Manufactures are not better than others, or not more esteemed by us, and that therefore they cannot bear more Duties.

However, there are some Reasons given why *French* Wines ought to pay less Duties than they do.

1st, The first is, that People may drink it so much cheaper. But sure this Reason can never weigh with any thing that has the Name of a *Gentleman*, and far less with a PATRIOT, when he sees it's against the true Interest of his Country.

2^{dly}, The second is from the Incapacity that the Gentry in *England* will be shortly in, of purchasing it at high Prices. This indeed may have some weight with it, if it shall happen that the Silk Weavers, and those multitudes of Hands that are usefully employed on the Woollen Manufactures, shall find no Work by the Importation of *French* Silks, and by the Prohibition of our Woollen Manufactures in *Portugal*, (which will infallibly ensue, and which they are waiting to do, on the equalizing the Duties on *French* and *Portugal* Wines;) as also by the setting up the Manufacture of Cloth by Count Bergeick in *Spain*, as our *Gazette* (an Authority not to be questioned) gave us an account he was doing, in the *Gazette* of the 9th Instant; and when those Hands that might expect to find Employment in the Fishery granted to the South-Sea Company, and other Fisheries of this Kingdom and of *Newfoundland*, shall find themselves disappointed of Work, (for of what use will it be to catch Fish, if there be no vent for it?) When all these Woollen and Silk Manufactures, and the Seamen, and Fishermen, shall find little or no Work, they must inevitably starve, or be a burden upon the Landed Interest: and then the Poors Rates that are already in many places 2 s. 6 d; 3 s; 3 s. 6 d. and in some others 4 s. and more in the Pound, will advance to 8 s. or 10 s. in the Pound; and then the remainder will never afford to buy dear *French* Wines.

3^{ly}, The third Reason that is given, is, that by the present Treaty of Commerce with *France*, this matter is agreed to by Her Majesty. To which we humbly presume to offer the following Answer.

1. That the Treaty with *Portugal*, which is universally allow'd to be advantageous to us, pleads the same Authority from Her Majesty's Ratification, that this with *France* does; and if we are not misinformed, more, because this Treaty with *France* is not to have effect till some Acts of Parliament now in force are altered.

2^{dly}, That there's all the Reason in the World to hope, that Her Majesty, out of Her Princely Tendernefs for Her People, if it shall appear to be pre-

prejudicial to the Trade of Her Kingdoms, will be graciously pleased not to think Her self obliged to make good to the *French King* any such Agreement; which we are the rather induced to hope, from the Instance Her Majesty has given of the same Care of Her People in the Alterations that have been made in the first Barrier-Treaty with the *States-General*, upon the Humble Representation of this House of Commons, that it was prejudicial to the Trade of this Kingdom.

3dly, This is the only time to regulate our Commerce with *France*, and what is now settled we can never hope to be relieved from hereafter. Therefore 'tis of the last Consequence to let pass any thing that may have the forementioned fatal Effects upon both our Home and Foreign Trade.

4thly, Tho the Duties now in question, when they were laid on, were not intended to continue exactly as they stand, yet were designed to give Time and Opportunity to the Parliament to consider maturely what was proper to be done in a Treaty of Commerce with *France*.

N. B. When Mr. *Methuen*, by Her Majesty's Order, was concerting this Treaty with *Portugal*, the *French* were at that moment tempting them to break it; and in order to it, offer'd them to take off their *Brazil Sugars* and *Tobacco*: yet they prefer'd us, because we took off their *Wines*. But if they are disappointed in that too, they will doubtless accept the Treaty which the *French* are ready to enter into with them now. And here we cannot but take notice that the *Portuguese Sugars* are almost all of them fine Sugars, which the *French* are willing to take of them that they might break our Trade, tho they refuse to take from us any *Clay'd* or *Refin'd Sugars*. So heartily do the *French* favour our Trade.

There is no notice taken here of the Benefit we receive by the great quantities of Corn lately sent to *France*; because that is but an accidental Advantage, arising from the Dearth last Year; for in common Years they abound in Corn enough to serve themselves, and for Exportation too: so that this is not to be mentioned, as an Advantage in a regular course of Trade.

One thing further must not be omitted, which is, That during the very great struggle that has been made for several Years past, to keep the high Duties upon *French Wines*, it has been frequently necessary both by speaking, and writing, to disclose very openly the Nature of our Trade with *Portugal*, *Spain* and *Italy*, and to press that all the Favours that were possible might be continu'd to those Nations, from whence so great a Ballance was yearly paid us in Money. This has already awaken'd the *Portuguese*, the Consequences of which may be very fatal to our Trade, and by that to the Landed Interest, which are inseparable. But it must be remember'd

that all those ill Consequences are justly chargeable on those that occasion'd that Discovery; *The unthinking immoderate Lovers of French Wine*, to whom it is wholly owing.

Some Observations on the Treaty of Commerce between Great Britain and France.

SINCE the above written, the Treaty is publish'd by Authority.

The 8th Article is against the *Portugal Treaty*, by proposing an Equality.

By the 9th, 'tis provided, that the *Tariff* of 1664, shall not take place till two Months after a Law shall pass here, to reduce the Duties on all Commodities, to an Equality with what is paid for Goods of the like nature, imported from any other Country in *Europe*. Notwithstanding which, in case such an Act shall pass here, 'tis hoped the *French King* may be oblig'd by an Edict, to suspend the Payment of the high Duties now payable on our Goods in *France* for those Two Months; or the Act not to take place till such time as the Treaty shall take place in *France*.

The 10th Article says, the Duties on Tobacco *shall be reduc'd hereafter*; but does not say when that **HEREAFTER** shall begin. 'Tis further said in the same Article, That *the Subjects on both sides*, that is, we suppose, the *French* as well as *English*, shall pay the same Duties, and that there shall be an *equal* liberty of Selling; and the *British* Subjects shall have the same Laws (relating thereunto) as the Merchants of *France* themselves. That may be; and yet the Farm, notwithstanding what is mention'd in the third Matter referr'd to the Commissioners *pag. 50.* may still subsist, because 'tis only left to Commissioners; which if they do not agree, as 'tis very probable they may not, then by virtue of the 9th Article, it remains as it was; that is, a Farm still: and then neither the Subjects of *France* nor *England*, will have any liberty of Selling, but to the Farmers only, at what Price they please: which amounts to a Prohibition.

The same may be said of the Inspection of all our Manufactures in *France*, which is the first Matter refer'd to the Commissioners, *pag. 49.* that if it is not agreed, the *French* will, 'tis probable, find Pretences to suffer none to be imported.

The 11th Article says, The 50 *Sols French* Money, paid *per Ton* on the *British* Ships, shall cease, and that no such Duty shall be laid hereafter: but that will not prevent their exacting a further Duty that has already been laid for some Years, of 20 *Sols* more than the aforesaid 50 *Sols*; for we have been forc'd to pay 70 *Sols per Ton* on all Ships that have carry'd any of our Manufactures or Growths (except Corn) ever since the *Tariff* of

of 1701, which being laid in time of Peace, and not mention'd now, 'twill not be strange if it be insisted on.

In the 29th Article, the Bail to be given in *England*, for Ships taking Letters of Mart, is to be 1500 *l.* Sterl. and 3000 *l.* Sterl. according to their bigness; that to be enter'd into by the *French*, is to be but 16500 *l. Tournois*, and 3300 *l. Tournois*; which, reckoning the Exchange at 4 *s.* 6 *d.* per *French* Crown, which is the highest that it can be reckon'd at, makes this difference; that in the 1500 *l.* we must give more Security by 262 *l.* 10 *s.* and in the 3000 *l.* we must be bound in 525 *l.* more than the *French*.

Since by this Treaty, four *British* Commodities excepted out of the Tariff of 1664, must pay the high Duties impos'd in *France* in 1699, sure 'tis highly reasonable that Four of the Commodities of *France* should pay the Duties impos'd in *England* in the 7th and 8th of *William III.* And the better to see how high those Duties are, here is a Comparison between the Tariff of 1664, and that of 1699.

	1664 French Money	1699 French Money	Sterling Money at 4 s. 6 d. pr. Fr. Cro.
Whalebone cut and prepar'd the C. —————	<i>l.</i> 2 10	<i>l.</i> 9 00	<i>l.</i> 00 13 6
Whale Fins, 300 lb. —————	3 00	20 00	1 10 00
Trayne Oyl, 520 lb. —————	3 00	7 10	00 11 3
Cloth, 25 Ells pay as Cloths	40 00	55 10	4 2 6
Ratines, 25 Ells —————			
Serges, 13 to 15 Ells —————	10 00	11 00	16 6
Fish salted, 12 Barrels per Last	7 10	47 10	3 11 3
Sugar refin'd in Loaf or other- wise, and Suger Candy white or brown, per 100 lb.	15 00	22 10	1 13 9

☞ Note, The above Proportion, such as it is, for our Fish, excludes the Newfoundland Fish, Conger, Ling, and all Fish not in Barrels.

By the 9th Article, and by the Explanation in pag. 54 of the Treaty, 'tis *ABSOLUTELY* agreed, that the abovemention'd Duties shall be paid for these Commodities; which how unreasonable it is for the *French* to de-

demand at the time they insist to have the Duties taken off here, the following Observations will shew.

A Cloth of 50 Yards, coarse or fine, must pay, for every 25 Yards, 55 Livers *Tourns*, that is, in Sterling Mony, at 4 s. 6 d. per French Crown, 8 l. 5 s. Sterling.

A Ratine the same.

Serges proportionable.

Barrels of Herrings, which one year with another cost, put aboard 16 s. a Barrel, must pay in France above 5 s. 11 d. per Barrel.

Refin'd Sugar 33 s. 9 d. per 100 lib Suttle, which is above 60 l. per cent. of the Value here, one sort with another.

Can any Man suppose these Duties don't amount to a Prohibition.

Besides, the manner of Expression in the second Article, pag. 84. is to be taken notice of. 'Tis there said, that to *facilitate* the Trade of *Cloths*, *Ratines* and *Serges* (*Pour en faciliter le Commerce*) it shall be allow'd to import them; Where? not in all or any Port of France, but only in three Places, *St. Vallery*, *Roan*, and *Bordeaux*. The Intention of France, in which Restriction, is with design, that being afterwards transported by Land, or if by Sea in their own Ships, the Carriage should render them dearer. And by the 9th Article 'tis agreed, That if the Commissioners on both sides shall not adjust the Matter of these excepted Commodities, then they shall stand as before; that is, they may be visited and inspected. The 9th Article also seems to want an Explanation, as to what Provinces are mention'd in the Tariff of 1664, and of what Provinces are excepted by the words, *Otherwise than according to the Rule at that time prescribed*. —

The French are so kind, in order (no doubt) to *facilitate our Commerce*, to permit our salted Barrel Fish, upon paying those high Duties, to be admitted to an Entry in five Places. *viz.* the three abovemention'd, and *Nants* and *Lisborn*; the last is a place of no Trade, but serv'd only to make up the number of Places, and is about twelve Leagues from *Bordeaux* in the River *Dordone*; but in all other Parts of France to remain prohibited. And shall our Trade be thus incumbered, and theirs free?

Better no Trade than a Destructive One.



